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Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
Alexandria, Virginia 22304-1450

Re: Appeal #2006-0940, Application #10/037,548

Dear Board Members,

One more time I would like to find exact words that could persuade you that my invention is original and absolutely different from what was invented by Thackara (USPN 2766473), Newman (USPN 3745624), Dezen (4467509), and Jang (USPN 5497527).

Claim 1. One of the principle innovations of this claim is mating connection of the inner and outer portions of the roller frame cage. It is absolutely different from the Thackara's design. I explained this in detail in my Appellant's Brief of 07/14/2005.

Claims 2, 3. This is a well known fact that all existing paint roller frames of all designs are not leak-proof that causes a lot of inconveniences to the painters. Could it be that though preventing paint leakage inside the cage was not claimed as a goal by the inventors mentioned above, their designs can provide such a feature? No, with 100% certainty! Leakage prevention could be achieved only if there are three washers (for three possible routes of leakage) and they are compressed. My claims are introducing such washers. The examiner tries to reject my claims by looking for washers in the above mentioned inventions.

The examiner states in the letter of 09/13/05 that in Thackara's design "there are two resilient integral washers (17, 26) adjacent to the inner and outer faces to ensure a tight fit". However, you would not find such wording in his claim. This wording, for the most part, is taken from my Claim 2.

Thackara's claim has the following language: "The slots 18 render the ring 17 resilient so that the ring may firmly but releasably engage the sleeve 14" (Col 2, 16 – 18). And after this: "The cap 25, which is best shown in Figs 2 and 3, is provided with a thin annular ring 26 having an outside diameter about equal to or slightly greater than the inside diameter of the sleeve 14 and having a plurality of slots 27 therein which render the ring 26 resilient and permit firm but releasable engagement of the ring with the sleeve 14." (Col 2, 33 – 39). It is absolutely clear from the Thackara's description that 17 and 26 are not washers. These rings have slots that give them spring qualities and allow "firm but releasable engagement" with the sleeve 14.

This way of establishing firm but releasable engagement is often used in engineering and could be found in other roller frame designs. For example USPN 5345648 (see Fig. 2) is in many respects similar to the Thackara's design.

The examiner states on Page 3 that in the Thackara's design "the roller cage could be removed from the shaft for maintenance or replacement of parts". There are no references to the Thackara's claim because this wording was also taken from my Claim 6, though one important word, "worn" is missed since my claim is discussing "replacement of worn parts". However, this is a key word in understanding of my claim: such parts as 120, 141 and washers 115, 151, 117 when intensively used are losing their qualities and after 6 – 12 months should be replaced while other parts can perfectly serve for many years. So, it is wrong that my Claims 1, 2, 3, and 6 are anticipated by Thackara.

Very similar errors, misinterpretations, and misrepresentations could be found in the examiner's rejection of my Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 8 based on Newman (USPN 3745624). For example, Newman's roller 48 and lip 56 are named "resilient integral washers (48, 56)". This is all so similar to the rejection based on Thackara's that I probably should not even continue.

Sincerely,

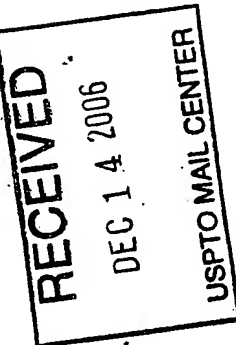
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